MR. CHAIRMAN; Mr. Kapur.... You are not asking a question. That is all right. Next question.

Categorisation of persons uprooted from Merapani area

*45. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:f
SHRI S. W. DHABE.-

Will the Minister of HOME AF-IRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the people who became homeless during the trouble in the Merapani area last June, are Rajbansis who are categorised as Scheduled Castes in West Bengal from where they had migrated to this area in Assam where they are not categorised as Schedul rl Castes, if so, what led to this< change in categorisation; and

(b) what steps are being tak<=n to solve this" anomaly and rehabilitate them in the area from where th°y have now been rendered homeless?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AF-FAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) As in rest of the State the population in the Merapani area is a mixed one.

It is a fact that the Rafbansi categoris°d as Scheduled Castes in West Bengal and not so in Assam. In accordance with the provision of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are specified in relation to a particular area/State.

(b) As a result of steps taken to restore normalcy, most of the people displaced as a result of the. clashes have returned to their respective places. The State Government are undertaking necessary relief and rehabilitation measures. A Central team has been deputed to assess the damage and to recommend the quantum of Central assistance to we given to the State Government towards relief and rehabilitation. In the meanwhile, the

r flSi fOflttoS Wis actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.

State Government have been given u Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 50 lakhs to meet the emergent expenditure. Besides, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs hag been released from the Prilme Minister's Relief Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

French help to make Gang a free from pollution

*46. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

'(a) whether the Government of France have recently offered to the Government of India their help to make rivdr Ganga free from pollution;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to accept the offer?

THE PRTME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India and France have agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in the exchange of technical and scientific information and promoting joint research and development programmes in the Meld of extraction of energy from effluents, urban waste and agricultural residues. France has proposed to extend financial and technical assistance for mutually agreed projects especially for the site of Banaras. A memorandum of Understanding to this effeet wae signed on 6th June, IMS,